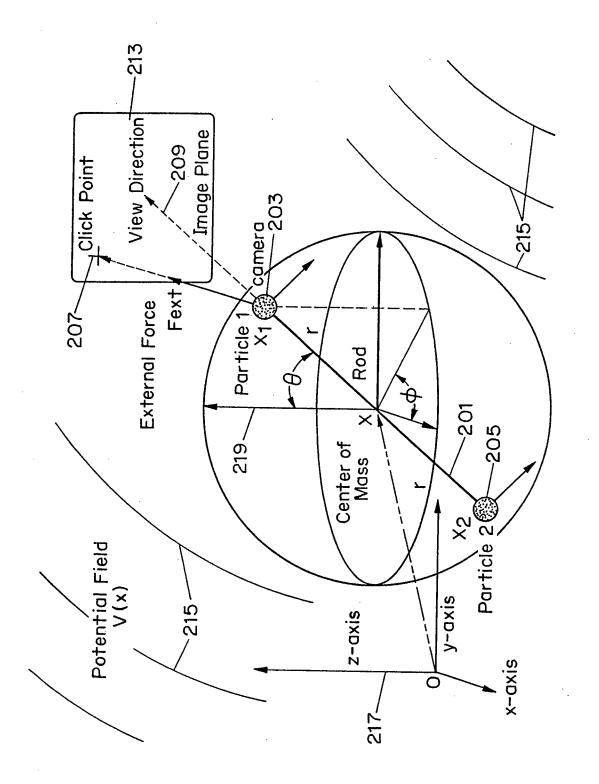


FIG. 3



F16. 2

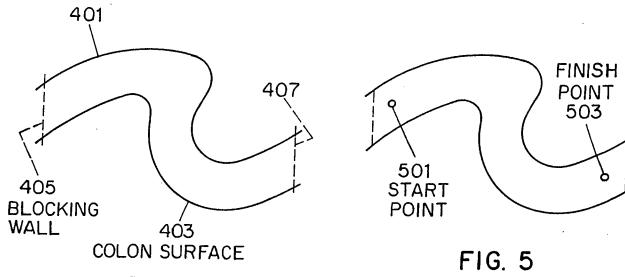


FIG. 4

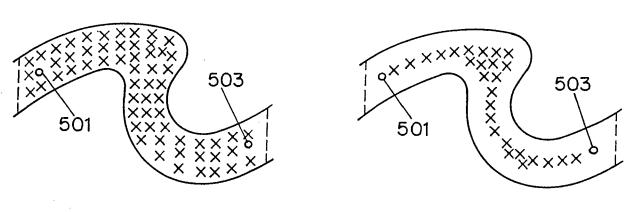


FIG. 6



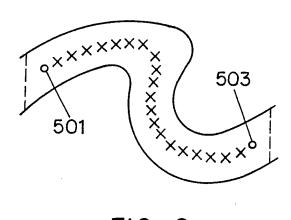


FIG. 8

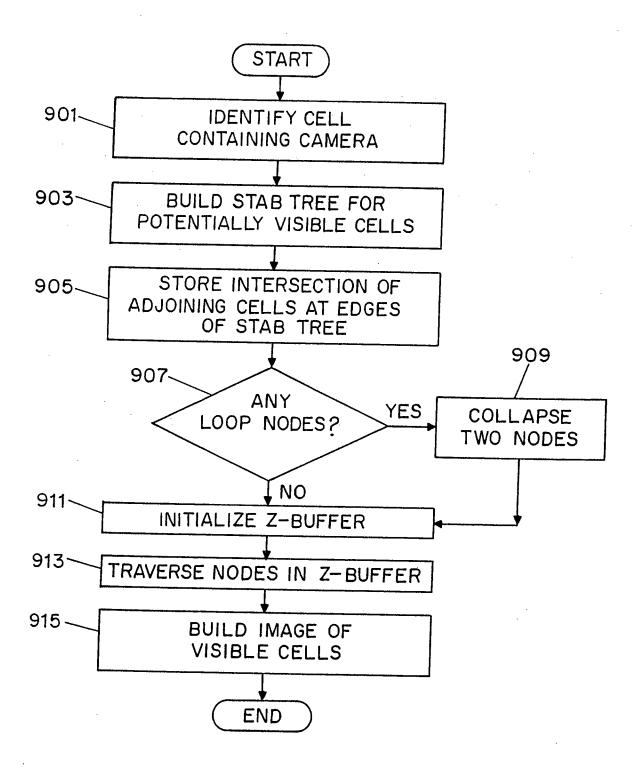


FIG. 9

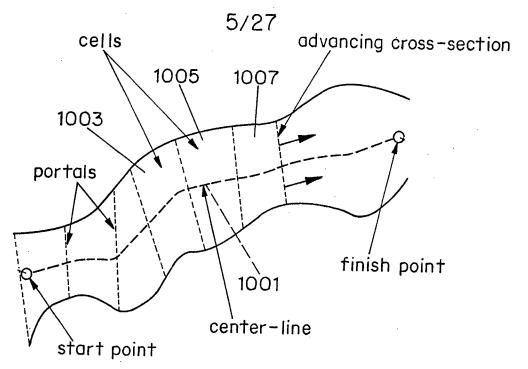


FIG. 10

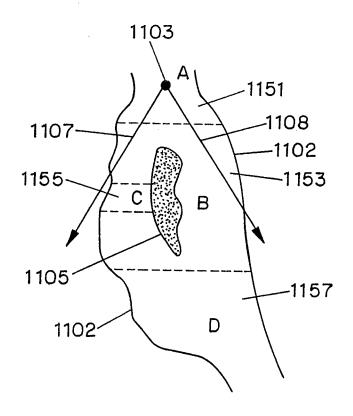
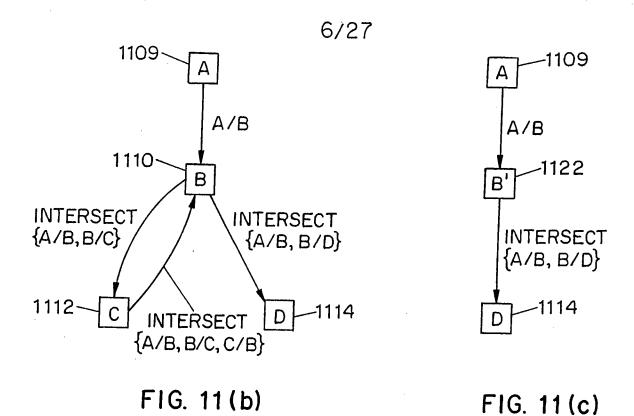
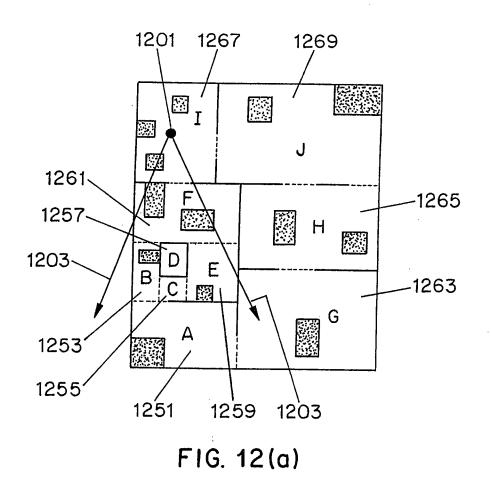
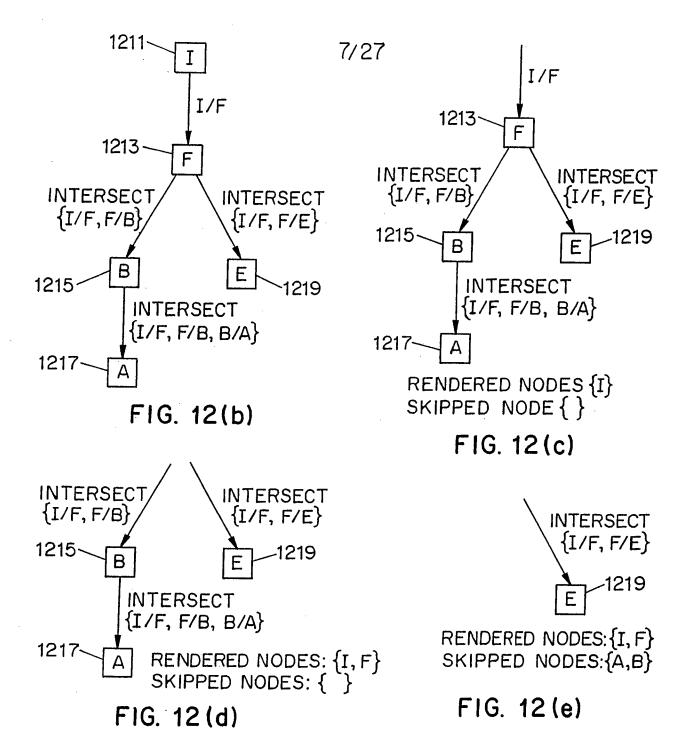


FIG. 11(a)







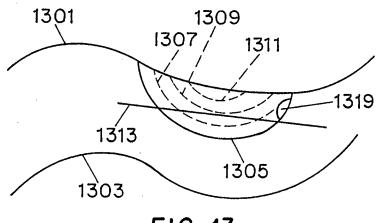


FIG. 13

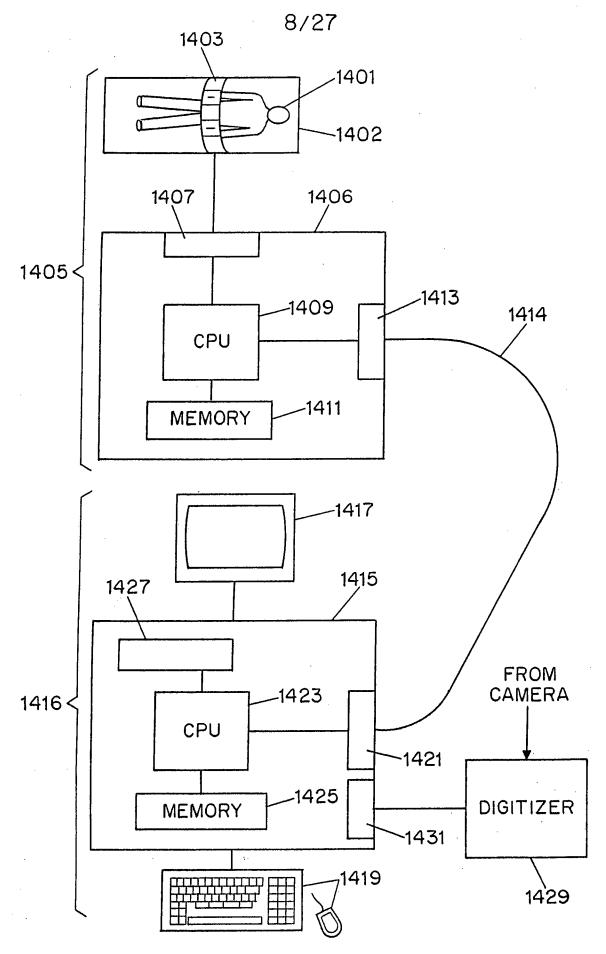
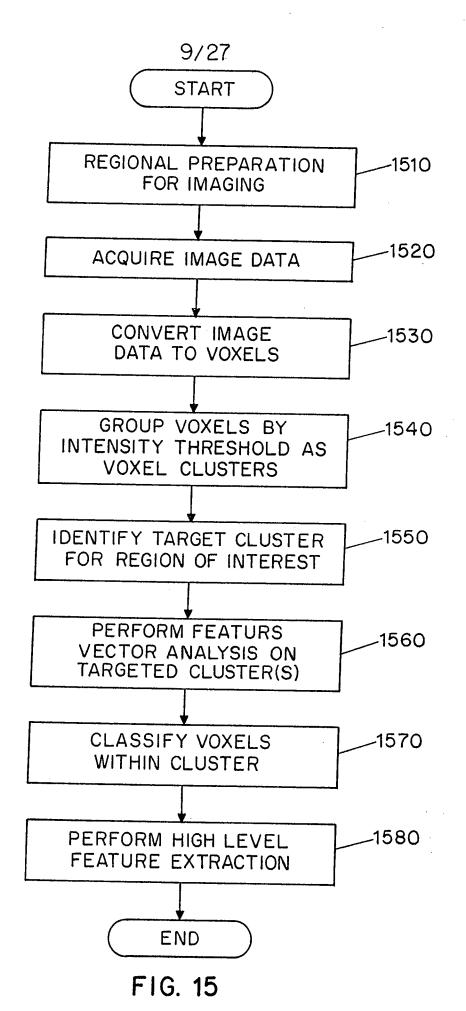
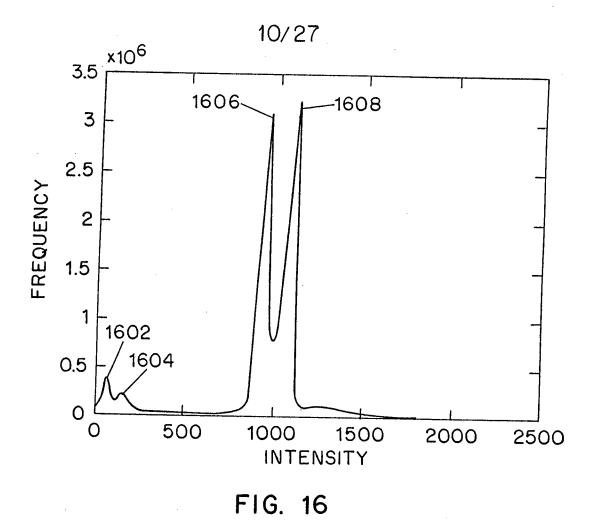


FIG. 14





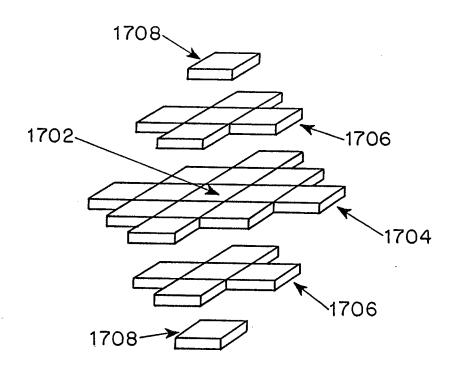


FIG. 17

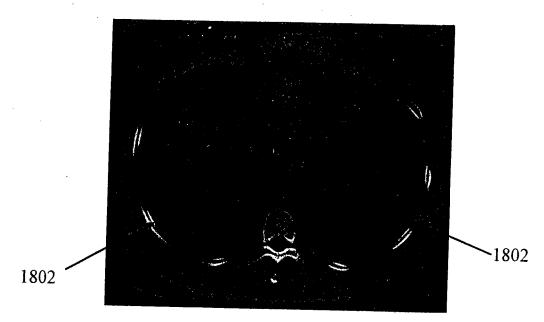


FIG. 18A

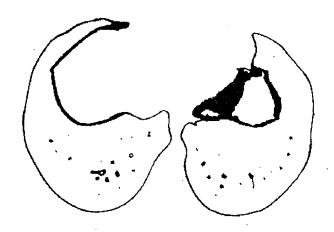


FIG. 18B

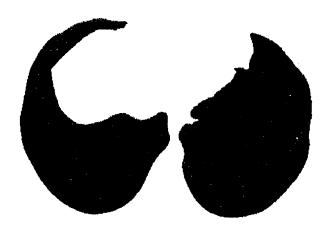


FIG. 18C

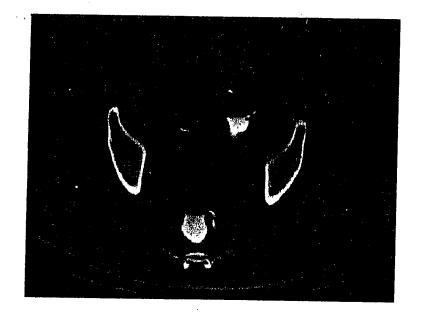


FIG. 19A

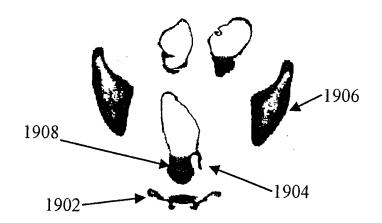


FIG. 19B



FIG. 19C

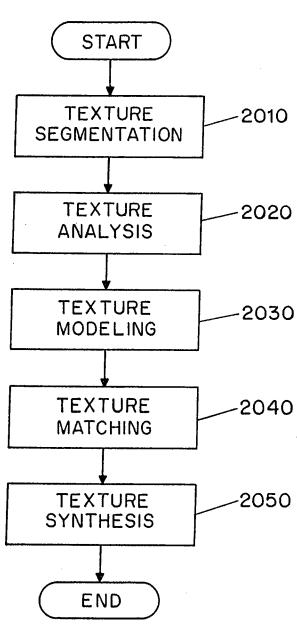


FIG. 20

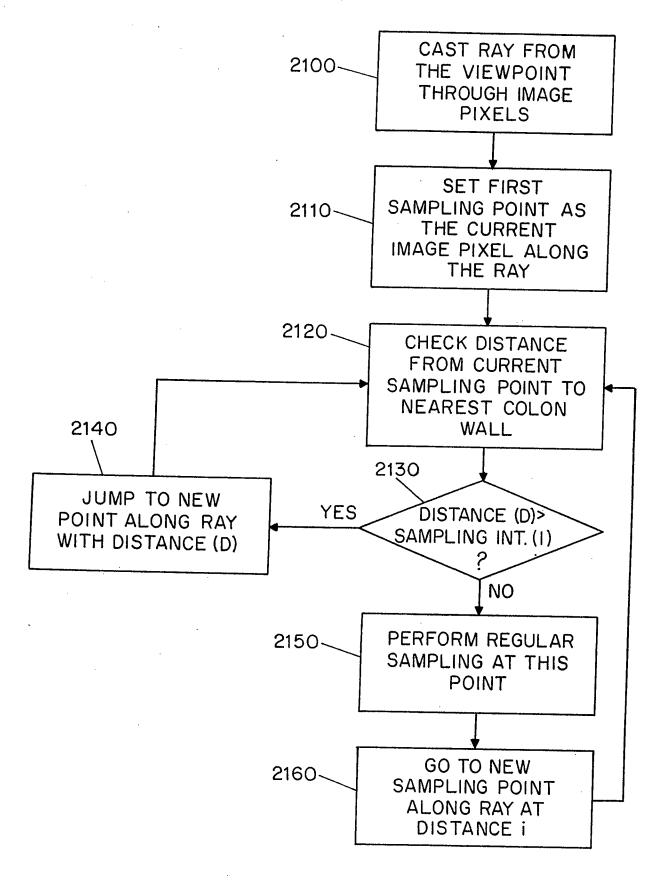


FIG. 21

YES

NO

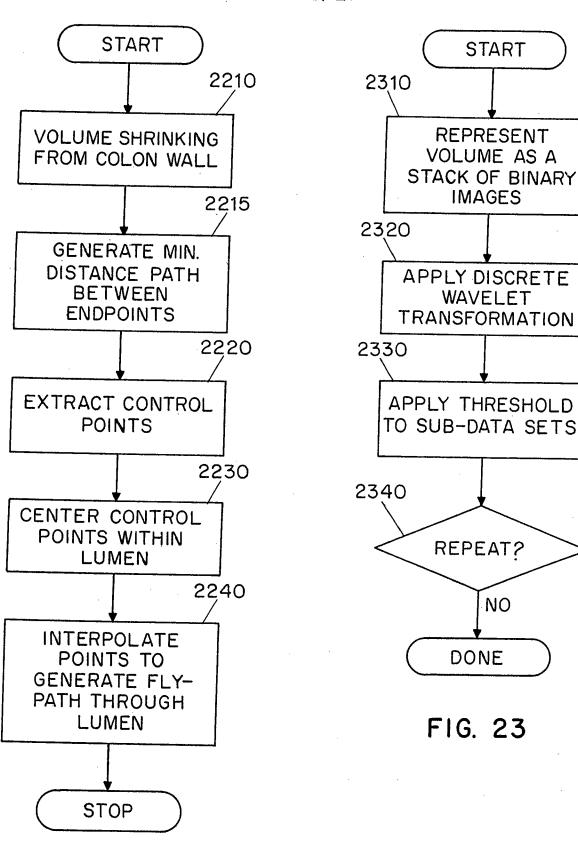
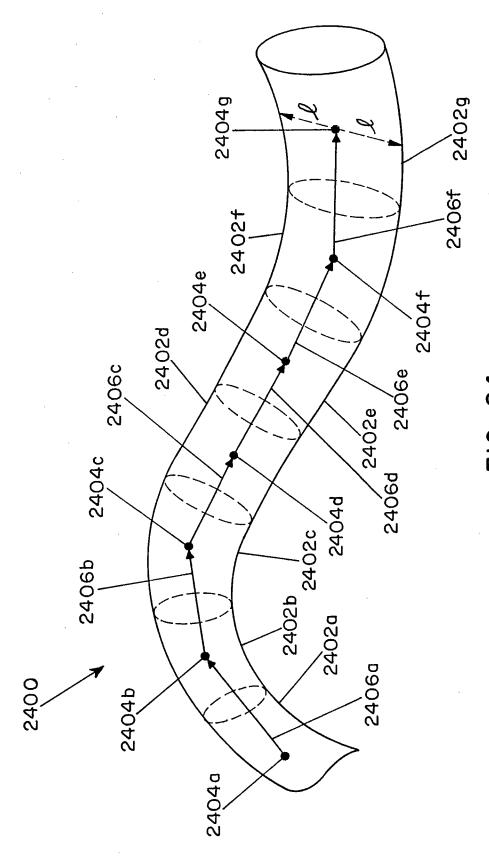
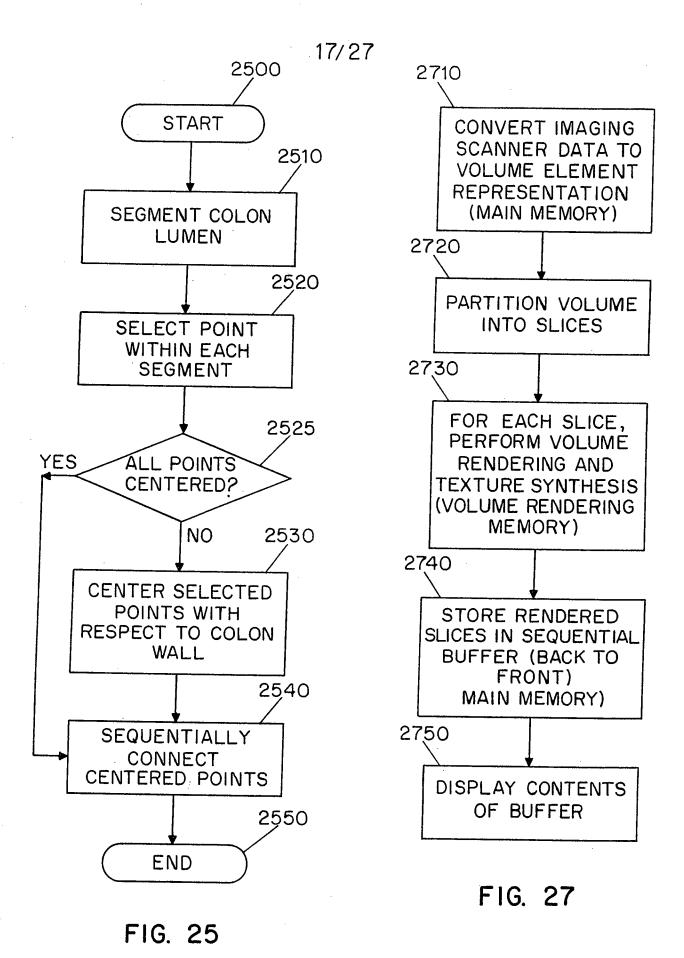
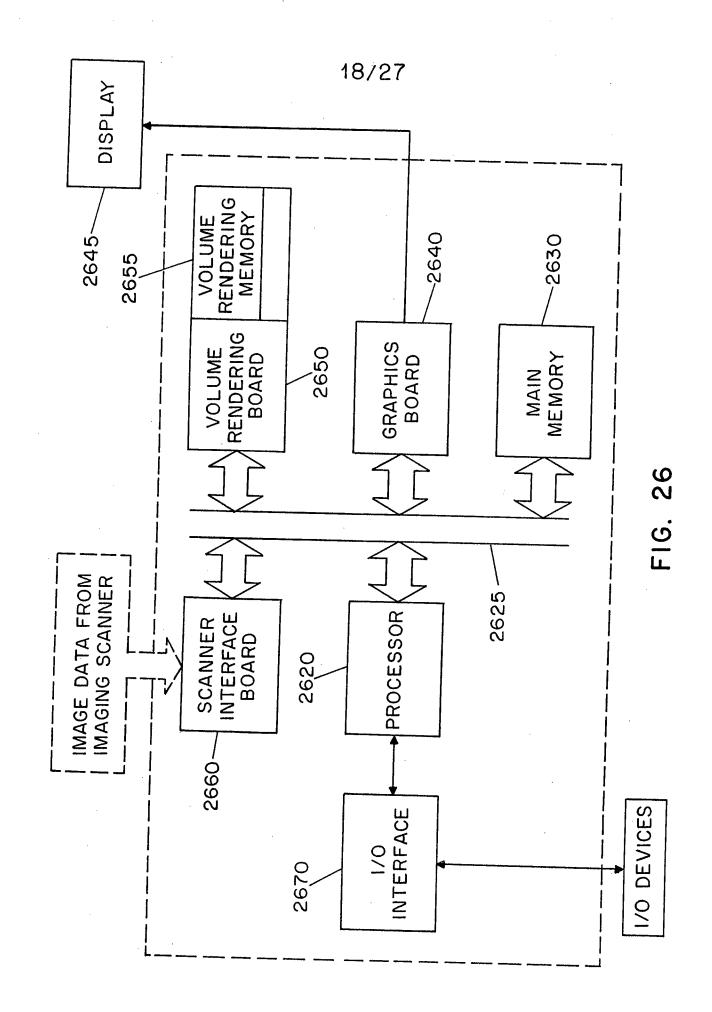


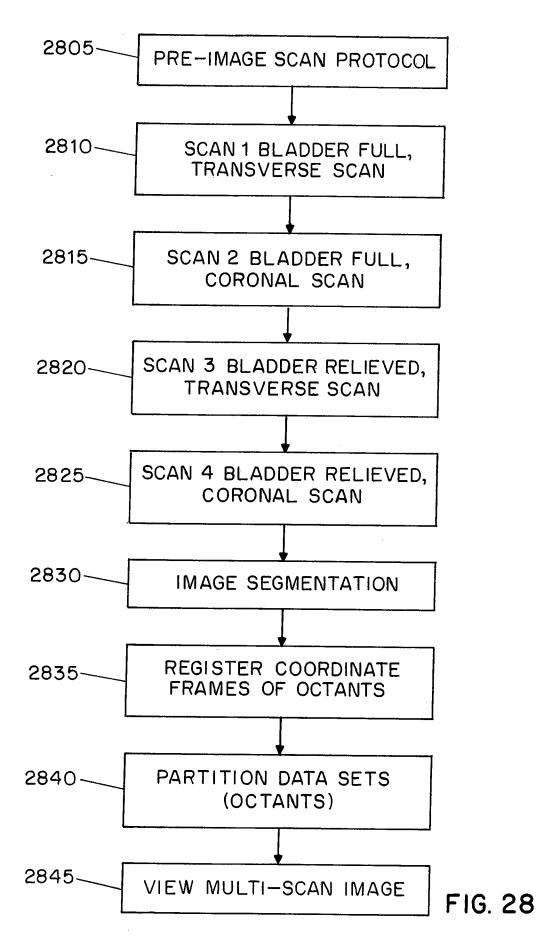
FIG. 22



F16. 24







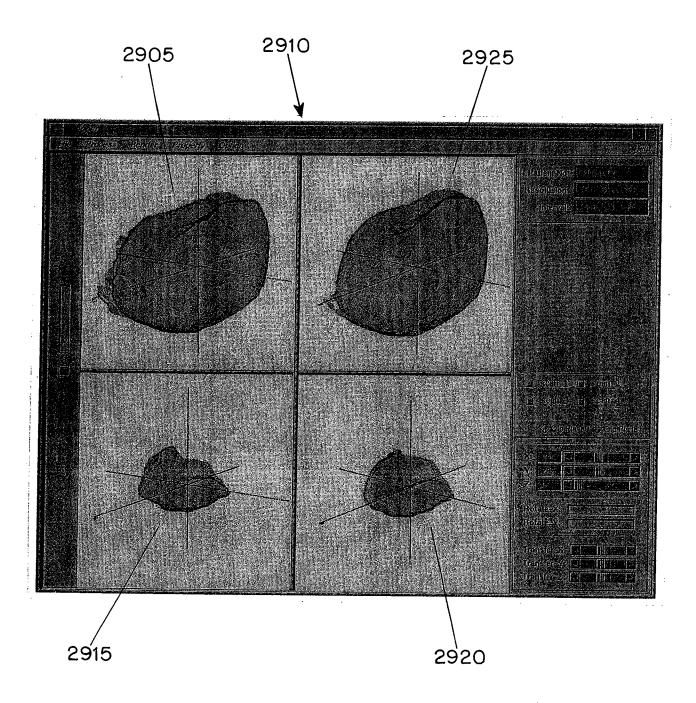


FIG. 29

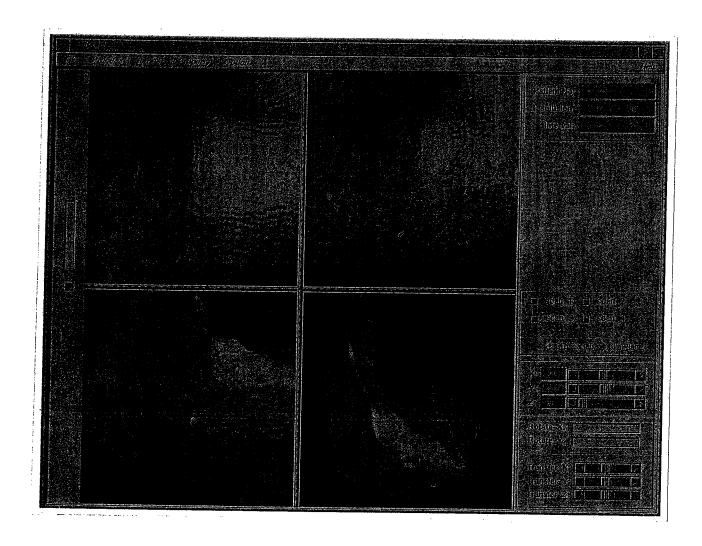
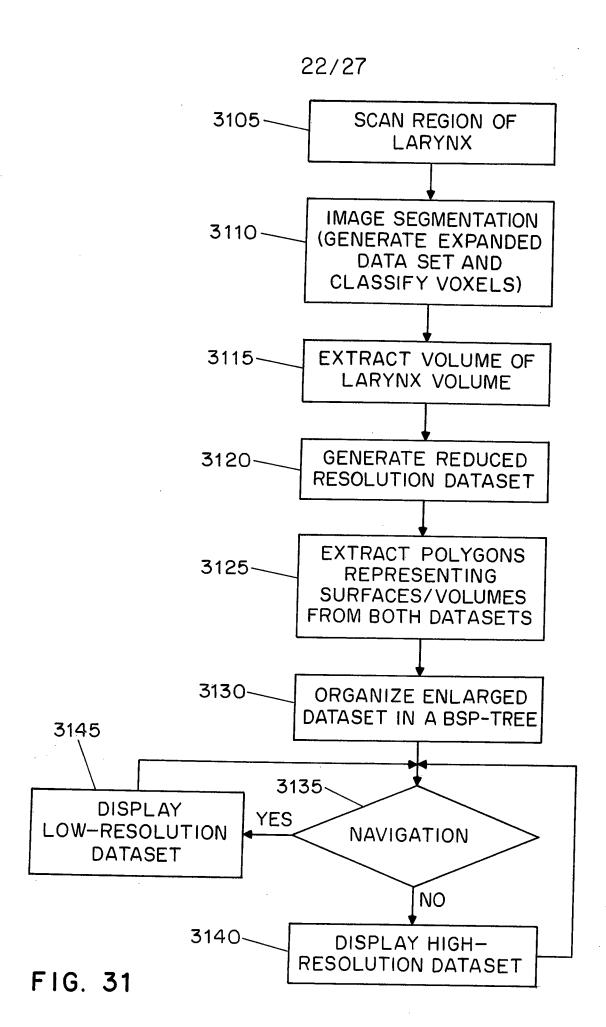


FIG. 30



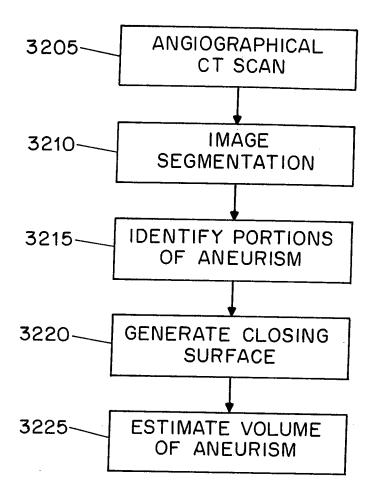


FIG. 32

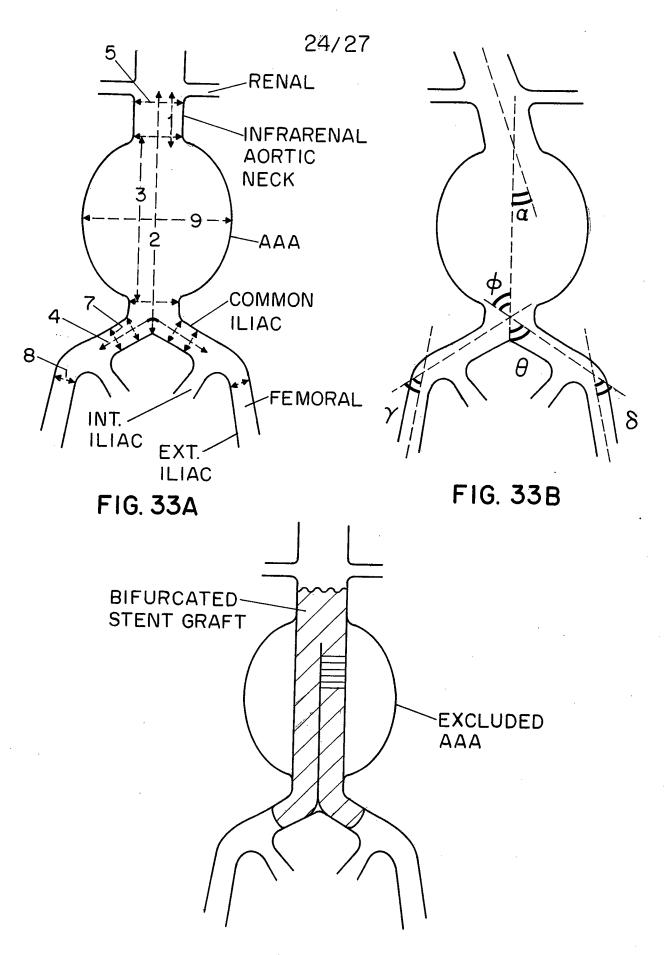


FIG. 33C

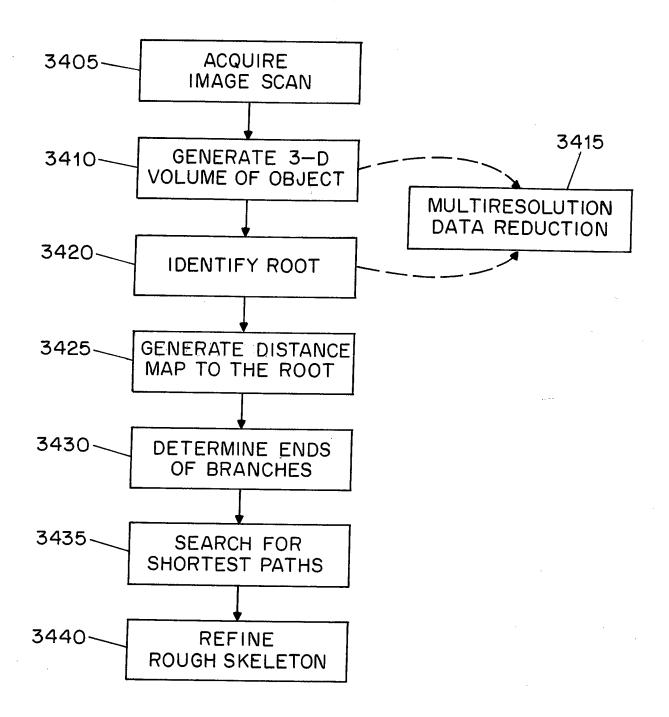


FIG. 34

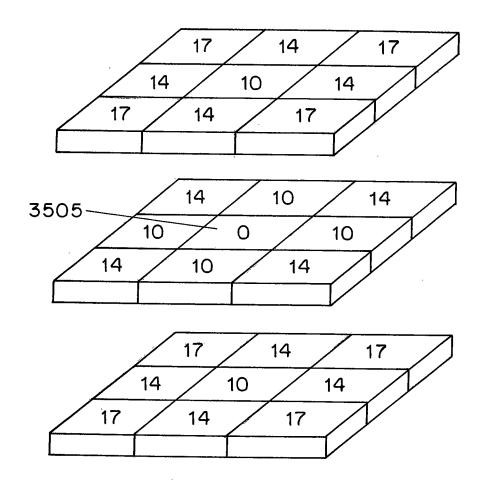


FIG. 35

```
1) Label root voxel with integer O;
2) Construct a queue and line up the root in the queue;
3) If (There is at least one voxel in the queue)
     Serve the voxel x on the top of the queue:
     For (each of x's 26-connected neighbor voxel y) {
       If (y in the volume and has not been labeled yet) {
        Line up the y in the queue;
        /* label the voxel y */
        Set dist = 999999;
        For (each of y's 26-connected neighbor voxel z) {
         If (z in the volume and has been already labeled with an
          integer of n_z) {
            d_Z \equiv n_Z + d(y, z);
            where d(y,z) is 10, 14 or 17 if the Euclidean distance
            between y and z is
           1, \sqrt{2}, or \sqrt{3}, respectively;
        If (dist > d_z) {
            label y with integer dist;
            dist = d_2;
   x leaves the quere;
 Else {
     end of calculating the distance map.
```